



EXPEDITED SPCC SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT  
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 7, 901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> ST., KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

JAN 13 2002  
RECEIVED

**Facility Name:** Panhandle Cooperative Ass.

**DOCKET NO:** CWA-07-2003-0208

**Location:** 401 S. Beltline Hwy, Scottsbluff, NE 69361

**Owner/Operator:** Don Hickox  
(Respondent)

This Expedited Settlement resolves Respondent's liability for Federal civil penalties for the violations of the SPCC regulations described in the Form. However, EPA does not waive any rights to take any enforcement action for any other past, present, or future violations by Respondent of the SPCC regulations or of any other federal statute or regulations. By its first signature, EPA ratifies the Inspection Findings and Alleged Violations set forth in the Form.

On July 1, 2002, an authorized representative of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted an inspection to determine compliance with the Oil Pollution Prevention (SPCC) regulations promulgated at 40 CFR Part 112 under Section 311(j) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1321(j)) (the Act), and found that Respondent had violated regulations implementing Section 311(j) of the Act by failing to comply with the regulations as noted on the attached Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Inspection Findings, Alleged Violations, and Proposed Penalty Form (Form), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

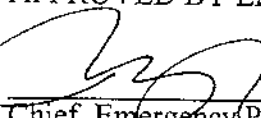
Upon signing and returning this Expedited Settlement to EPA, Respondent waives the opportunity for a hearing or appeal pursuant to Section 311 of the Act, and consents to EPA's approval of the Expedited Settlement without further notice.

If Respondent does not sign and return this Expedited Settlement as presented within 30 days of the date of its receipt, the proposed Expedited Settlement is withdrawn without prejudice to EPA's ability to file any other enforcement action for the violations identified in the Form.

This Expedited Settlement is binding on the parties signing below, and is effective upon the Regional Judicial Officer's signature.

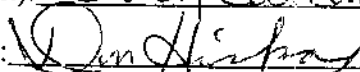
This proceeding and the Expedited Settlement are under the authority vested in the Administrator of EPA by Section 311(b) (6) (B) (i) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1321(b) (6) (B) (i), as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, and 40 CFR §§ 22.13(b) and 22.18(b), published at 64 Fed. Reg. 40137 on July 23, 1999. The parties enter into this Expedited Settlement in order to settle the civil violations described in the Form for a penalty of \$700.00. This settlement is subject to the following terms and conditions:

APPROVED BY EPA:

 Date: 1-2-04  
Chief, Emergency Plans and Response Branch,  
Superfund Division

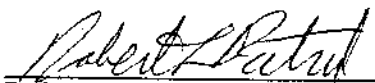
EPA finds that Respondent is subject to the SPCC regulations, which are published at 40 CFR Part 112, and has violated the regulations as further described in the Form. Respondent admits that he/she is subject to 40 CFR Part 112 and that EPA has jurisdiction over Respondent and Respondent's conduct as described in the Form. Respondent does not contest the Inspection Findings, and waives any objections it may have to EPA's jurisdiction. Respondent consents to the assessment of the penalty stated above.

APPROVED BY RESPONDENT:

Name (print): Don Hickox  
Title (print): Safety Coordinator  
Signature: 

Respondent certifies, subject to civil and criminal penalties for making a false submission to the United States Government, that the violations have been corrected and Respondent has sent a certified check in the amount of \$700.00 payable to the "Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund," to:

IT IS SO ORDERED:

 Date: Feb. 10, 2004  
Robert L. Patrick  
Regional Judicial Officer

"Regional Hearing Clerk, Office of Regional Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66101". Respondent has noted on the penalty payment check "CWA-07-2003-0208" the docket number of this case.

INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE

(Do Not Make Check Out to the Regional Hearing Clerk)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGIONAL HEARING CLERK  
JAN 13 2004  
04 FEB 10 AM 8:54

## INSTRUCTIONS

The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has authority under Section 311 of the Clean Water Act to pursue civil penalties for violations of the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures ("SPCC") regulations. However, EPA encourages the expedited settlement of easily verifiable violations of SPCC requirements, such as the violations cited in this Expedited Settlement Agreement.

You may resolve the cited violations quickly by signing and returning the Expedited Settlement Agreement (Agreement) and paying the penalty amount within 30 days of your receipt of the Agreement. Failure to return the Agreement within the approved time does not relieve you of the responsibility to comply fully with the regulations, including correcting the violations that have been specifically identified by the inspector. If you decide not to sign and return the Agreement and not pay the penalty, EPA can pursue more formal enforcement measures to correct the violation(s) and seek penalties of up to \$11,000 per violation up to a maximum penalty of \$27,500.

You are required in the Agreement to certify that you have corrected the violations and paid the penalty amount. The payment for the penalty amount must be in the form of a certified check payable to the "Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund," with the Docket Number of the Expedited Settlement Agreement on the check. The Docket Number is located at the top of the right column of the Agreement.

The Agreement and Payment of the penalty amount shall be sent via certified mail to:

Regional Hearing Clerk  
Office of Regional Counsel  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

By the terms of the Agreement, you waive your opportunity for a hearing pursuant to Section 311 of the Clean Water Act. EPA will treat any response to the proposed Agreement, other than acceptance of the settlement offer, as an indication that you are not interested in pursuing this expedited settlement procedure.

If you have any questions, you may contact the EPA Region 7 SPCC Compliance Coordinator at (913) 551-7251.

1/13/01

IN THE MATTER OF Panhandle Cooperative Ass., Respondent  
Docket No. CWA-07-2003-0208

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that the foregoing Expedited SPCC Settlement Agreement was sent this day in the following manner to the addressees:

Copy hand delivered to  
Attorney for Complainant:


Kristina Kemp  
Assistant Regional Counsel  
Region VII  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Copy by Certified Mail Return Receipt to:

Panhandle Cooperative Ass'n  
PO Box 2188  
Scottsbluff, Nebraska 69363-2188

US. Coast Guard  
Finance Center (OGR)  
1430A Kristina Way  
Chesapeake, VA 23326

Dated: 2/10/04

  
Kathy Robinson  
Regional Hearing Clerk